



24. Afrikanist*innentag

Online



Vom **1.-3. Juli 2021** findet der 24. Afrikanist*innentag an der Goethe-Universität Frankfurt in einem Online-Format statt. Alle bereits im Vorjahr angenommenen Vorträge und Poster sind automatisch für AFRA2021 akzeptiert. Dazu bitten wir die Vortragenden ihre Einreichung erneut via EasyChair hochzuladen und dabei die entsprechenden Felder im EasyChair-Formular anzukreuzen. Alternativ können Sie uns Ihren Teilnahmewunsch auch per Mail an afra2021@easychair.org mitteilen.

2. Call for Papers

Bis **8. März 2021** ist die Zusendung von Abstracts für die General Session, Panels und Poster erwünscht

General session

Wissenschaftler und Doktoranden, die sich in Forschung und Lehre mit afrikanischen Sprachen beschäftigen, sind herzlich eingeladen, einen Vortrag für die General Session einzureichen. Willkommen sind Präsentationen zu einem der nachfolgend aufgeführten Bereiche und weiteren afrikanistischen Themen:

- Beschreibung afrikanischer Sprachen (Phonologie, Morphologie, Syntax, Semantik, Pragmatik)
- Afrikanische Sprachwissenschaft und Sprachtypologie
- Historische Linguistik
- Sprachklassifikation
- Komparative und areale Linguistik
- Anthropologische Linguistik
- Kognitionslinguistik
- Soziolinguistik
- Lehre afrikanischer Sprachen
- Literaturen in afrikanischen Sprachen

Panel Sessions

Wir freuen uns, Ihnen drei Panel-Sessions anzubieten. Die Panel-Beschreibungen finden Sie weiter unten und auf unserer [Konferenz-Website](#).

- 1) Commands, blessings and warnings: Grammatical and ethnolinguistic aspects of directives in African languages
Panel organisers: Ronny Meyer & Yvonne Treis (CNRS/INALCO, LLACAN)
- 2) Linguistic Biographies
Panel organisers: Andrea Hollington (Uni. zu Köln) & Nico Nassenstein (JGU Mainz)
- 3) The 'African type(s)' of pronominal honorification
Panel organiser: Lee Pratchett (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Poster Session

Neben Vortragsthemen begrüßen wir Abstracts für eine Poster-Session, bei der die Verfasser*innen eingeladen sind, ihre Forschung vorzustellen

Online Vorträge: vorgeschlagenes Format

Eine ganze Reihe von Konferenzen sind in das Jahr 2021 verlegt worden, nicht wenige von ihnen in der Hoffnung, die Veranstaltung live und vor Ort durchführen zu können. Deshalb verspricht 2021 einen vollen Konferenz-Kalender. Weil aber der weitere Verlauf der Pandemie weiterhin vollkommen unvorhersehbar bleibt, haben wir uns entschlossen, den 24. Afrikanist*innentag komplett online zu veranstalten. Das erspart Ihnen die Sorge, ob und wie die Konferenz stattfinden wird und wie Sie dort hinkommen.

Die Vortragenden werden gebeten, eine Aufnahme ihrer Präsentation (z.B. eine vertonte Powerpoint-Präsentation) im Vorfeld der Konferenz einzureichen. Wir hoffen die Vorträge bereits etwas vor Beginn der Konferenz online stellen zu können, sodass die Teilnehmenden die Möglichkeit erhalten, alle Präsentationen anzusehen – vorbei die Zeiten, in denen man spannende Vorträge verpasste, weil sie zeitlich parallel angesetzt waren. Dieses Vorgehen wird mit der Zustimmung der Autor*innen und nur im Rahmen der Konferenz erfolgen, darüber hinaus findet keine Veröffentlichung der Inhalte statt. Weitere Details werden wir bekanntgeben, sobald wir den Umfang von AFRA2021 einschätzen können

Richtlinien zur Einreichung

Die General Session- und Panelvorträge sollten 20-25 Minuten nicht überschreiten. Wir bitten, eine anschließende Diskussion von 5-10 Minuten vorzusehen (maximal 30 Minuten insgesamt). Konferenzsprachen sind Deutsch und Englisch. Bitte reichen Sie Ihr Abstract (max. 300 Wörtern) über die Easychair-Plattform ein. Über den folgenden Link gelangen Sie zur Easychair-Website:

<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=afra2021>. Um Ihr Abstract einzureichen, müssen Sie sich zunächst bei Easychair registrieren, falls Sie nicht bereits ein Konto besitzen.

Bitte geben Sie an, ob Ihre Präsentation im Rahmen der General Session oder in einem der Panels oder der Poster Sessions berücksichtigt werden sollte. Alle bereits im Vorjahr angenommenen Vorträge und Poster sind automatisch für AFRA2021 akzeptiert. Dazu bitten wir die Vortragenden ihre Einreichung erneut via Easychair hochzuladen und dabei die entsprechenden Felder im Easychair-Formular anzukreuzen.

Wichtige Termine

Deadline for abstracts: **8th March 2021**

Bis zum **15. März 2021** werden Sie über die Annahme Ihres Beitrags benachrichtigt Weitere Informationen auf unserer Website oder über folgenden Kontakt: afra2021@easychair.org

https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/82151345/24_Afrikanist_innentag

24. Afrikanist*innentag
Panel 1

**Commands, blessings and warnings:
Grammatical and ethnolinguistic aspects of directives in African languages**

Organisers:

Ronny Meyer & Yvonne Treis (CNRS/INALCO, LLACAN)

Our workshop would like to bring together researchers working on the description and documentation of African languages to discuss grammatical and ethnolinguistic aspects of directives and related speech acts. Apart from descriptions of the grammar and use of commands ('VERB!') and prohibitions ('Don't VERB!'), we are **especially** interested in analyses of the morphology, syntax, lexicon and/or usage contexts of blessings and curses ('May you VERB!'), congratulations ('Congratulations for having VERBED!'), warnings of imminent dangers ('Take care not to VERB!') and threats ('Don't dare to VERB!') – which are to date still little or not at all studied in African languages. In the following we provide an (incomplete) list of aspects that we believe merit closer attention.

Commands and prohibitions

- Morphology of imperative verbs (in comparison to indicative verbs)
- Negation of imperatives (prohibitives): morphological (a)symmetries (see e.g. Miestamo 2007)
- (High-frequency) imperative-only verbs (see e.g. Cohen 1984)
- Commands in reported speech
- Expression of commands to 1st and 3rd-persons, e.g. dedicated hortative and jussive forms
- Non-command meanings of imperatives
- Expression of commands and prohibitions beyond imperatives: "command strategies" (Aikhenvald 2017), "veiled commands" (Henry 2017) and "whimperatives" (Wierzbicka 1991) such as *Would you open the door?*
- Directive (conative) interjections (Ameka 1991) and other verbless directives, see e.g. interjectional German *psst* 'Be quiet!' and Kambaata animal-directed commands, e.g. *sú* 'Catch!' (directed to a dog)

Blessing and curses

- Morphology of benedictive/maledictive verbs (compared to other verbs)
- Morphology and syntax of blessings/curses in comparison to speech formulas for greeting, thanking, apologizing and congratulating
- Lexicon and idiomatic expressions
- Dedicated (introductory) particles
- Usage context and cultural background

Congratulations

- Morphology of verbs in congratulations (compared to other verbs), see e.g. the use of perfective verbs in Ethiopian languages
- Lexicon and idiomatic expressions
- Dedicated (introductory) particles
- Usage context and cultural background

Warnings and threats

- Morphology of apprehensive verbs (Faller & Schultze-Berndt 2018, Vuillermet 2017), see e.g. the dedicated apprehensive paradigm in Kambaata (Treis 2018)
- Syntax of warnings and threats, see e.g. the dedicated apprehensive construction in Gban (Fedotov 2018) and the insubordinated apprehensives in Amharic *ind-a-t-räsa* (COMP-NEG-2SM-forget\IPFV) ‘Take care not to forget!’ (lit. ‘So that you don’t forget.’)

We invite contributions on individual languages (based on fieldwork data or written corpora) or comparative studies of languages of one genetic grouping or area, either from a synchronic or a diachronic perspective. Form-to-function approaches (exploring the array of functions of a certain morpheme, paradigm, particle, interjection etc.) and function-to-form approaches (exploring the different means of expressing commands, blessings, warnings etc.) are equally welcome. We accept abstracts in German, English and French.

It is planned to edit a joint publication after the workshop if there is enough interest.

Ronny Meyer (ronny.meyer@cnrs.fr)

Yvonne Treis (yvonne.treis@cnrs.fr)

Colleagues who have already expressed their interest to participate

- Klaudia Dombrowsky-Hahn (U Bayreuth) on Bambara blessings (Mande)
- Anne-Maria Fehn (U Frankfurt) on Khwe and Ts’ixa (Khoe)
- Angelika Jakobi (U Köln) on Dongolawi or Tangle (Nubian)
- Raija Kramer (U Hamburg) on Fula (Atlantic)
- Alice Mitchell (U Köln) on Datooga imperatives and prohibitives (morphology, syntax, discourse patterns)
- Rebecca Voll (CNRS-LLACAN) on Mundabli (Bantoid) reported commands

References and selected readings

- Aikhenvald, Alexandra Y. 2010. *Imperatives and commands*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (See especially: Imperatives and commands – how to know more: a checklist for fieldworkers, pp. 418-423).
- Aikhenvald, Alexandra Y. 2017. *Imperatives and commands: A cross-linguistic view*. In: Aikhenvald & Dixon 2017: 1-45.
- Aikhenvald, Alexandra Y. & R.M.W. Dixon 2017. *Commands: A crosslinguistic typology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Ameka, Felix K. 1992. Interjections: The universal yet neglected part of speech. *Journal of Pragmatics* 18: 101-118.
- Cohen, David 1984. « Viens! », « Donne! », etc.: Impératifs déictiques. In: *Comptes rendus du Groupe Linguistique d’Études Chamito-Sémitiques (GLECS) XXIV-XXVIII*, 3 : 521-524.
- Faller, Martina & Eva Schultze-Berndt 2018. The semantics and pragmatics of apprehensive markers in a cross-linguistic perspective. Introduction to the workshop “The semantics and pragmatics of apprehensive markers in a cross-linguistic perspective” of the 51st Annual Meeting of the SLE, 29 August-1 September 2018, Tallinn.
- Fedotov, Maksim 2019. The apprehensive construction in Gban. Paper presented at workshop “The semantics and pragmatics of apprehensive markers in a cross-linguistic perspective” of the 51st Annual Meeting of the SLE, 29 August-1 September 2018, Tallinn.

- Henry, Rosita 2017. Veiled commands: Anthropological perspectives on directives. In Aikhenvald & Dixon 2017: 301-314.
- Lichtenberk, Frantisek 1995. Apprehensional epistemics. In: Bybee, Joan & Suzanne Fleischmann (eds.), *Modality in grammar and discourse*, pp. 293-328. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Miestamo, Matti 2007. Negation: An overview of typological research. *Language and Linguistics Compass* 1, 5: 552-570.
- Pakendorf, Brigitte & Ewa Schalley 2007. From possibility to prohibition: A rare grammaticalization pathway. *Linguistic Typology* 11: 515-540.
- Treis, Yvonne 2018. [The apprehensive paradigm of Kambaata](#). Paper presented at workshop “The semantics and pragmatics of apprehensive markers in a cross-linguistic perspective” of the 51st Annual Meeting of the SLE, 29 August-1 September 2018, Tallinn.
- Vuillermet, Marine 2017. [Questionnaire on apprehensional morphology](#). Laboratoire Dynamique Du Langage, Lyon, ms.
- Wierzbicka, Anna 1991. *Cross-cultural pragmatics. The semantics of human interaction*. Berlin, New York: Mouton de Gruyter.

24. Afrikanist*innentag
Panel 2

Linguistic Biographies

Organisers:

Andrea Hollington (University of Cologne) & Nico Nassenstein (JGU Mainz)

The field of linguistic biographies has gained momentum in sociolinguistic and linguistic anthropology in the last years, since its emergence in the 1980s/1990s. Usually investigated through biographic in-depth interviews and the ethnography of communication, linguistic biographies focus on individual persons' practices, ideologies and metalinguistic knowledge and views and thus regard the people as protagonists in the creation, distribution and development of their repertoires and their (individual) linguistic performances (Matras 2009, Blommaert 2010). Following a repertoire-based approach (Lüpke & Storch 2013) enables us to examine the fine-graded nuances of individual language use and the ways in which people acquire, value and use linguistic resources which reflect and represent their life stories. Linguistic biographies, in this regard, are personal narratives that indexically link people to the world they live in through language. They are concerned with the linguistic experiences throughout life (Franceschini 2002).

While language biographies have often been investigated with regard to migration, language acquisition and learning in mostly European contexts, this panel seeks to shed light on language biographies that involve African languages and linguistic practices. Looking at African linguistic biographies promises to yield interesting results not at least through the fact that the majority of speakers of African languages is multilingual. This is not limited to the African continent (a rich source of multilingual and complex linguistic biographies) but also involves other parts of the world through migration and diaspora. We welcome contributions that shed light on various aspects of linguistic biographies and thus help to establish the field in African Studies and African Sociolinguistics.

References

- Blommaert, Jan. 2010. *The Sociolinguistics of Globalization*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Franceschini, Rita. 2002. Sprachbiographien: Erzählungen über Mehrsprachigkeit und deren Erkenntnisinteresse für die Spracherwerbsforschung und die Neurobiologie der Mehrsprachigkeit. *Bulletin VALS-ASLA* 76. 19-33.
- Lüpke, Friederike and Anne Storch. 2013. *Repertoires and Choices in African Languages*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Matras, Yaron. 2009. *Language Contact*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

24. Afrikanist*innentag
Panel 3

The ‘African type(s)’ of pronominal honorification

Organiser:

Lee Pratchett (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Honorification encompasses various strategies that encode paradigmatically social deixis distinctions between speakers and other referents (e.g. Brown & Levinson 1987: 198-204). The manipulation of pronominal forms for such ends is cross-linguistically widespread. Yet, consider the following summary of the distribution of second-person pronominal honorification systems in a recent volume on (im)politeness in language: “Apart from Europe such distinctions exist in South-east Asia, India and perhaps Central America but they are not attested in North and South America, North Asia, Australia or Papua New Guinea” (Jucker & Kopczyk 2017: 439). The omission of the world’s second largest populated continent, home to a third of the planet’s languages, is all the more unfortunate in light of how Africa was described half a century ago: “the African honorific pronoun systems differ from many systems found in other parts of the world” (Gregersen 1974: 51). The primary aim of this panel is to fill the very literal gap in the appraisal of pronominal honorification by inviting descriptions that illustrate this phenomenon in African languages.

That Europe is recurrently described as a “hotbed” for languages with a politeness distinction in the pronominal system (Helmbrecht 2013; Jucker & Kopczyk 2017: 439) has much to do with a historical research bias towards these languages, both in the sampling methodology and by focussing on the type of pronominal honorification commonly attested in them (see Helmbrecht 2002). The one type common to European languages is *addressee* honorification and typically involves the extension of the second-person plural pronoun to a singular addressee in particular social contexts. It has been dubbed the *tu/vous* or even ‘European type’. Yet, it is well attested in African languages, including Amharic (Leslau 1995: 46f), Kambaata (Treis 2008: 330ff), Makhuwa (Maughim 1898: 7-8), and Makwe (Devos 2008: 163), to name but a few. An example from Gbaya is given in (1).

(1) Gbaya ‘bodoé (Ubangi, Niger-Congo; adapted from Roulon-Doko 1997: 87)

ʔá mè té-, ʔèè né ... mé té- òùk nù sààyé ʔènèmé ná
INTJ 2SG come 1PL go 2SG come stay ground village alone NEG

(Mother to daughter) “Ah [tu] viens, allons-y ... tu ne resteras pas seule au village.”

wòóyèé ! nàà, ʔènè né
no mother 2PL.HON go

(Daughter to mother) “Non, maman, allez-y.”

A typology of the form and function of repertoires and styles necessitates a thorough appraisal of the African type(s) of pronominal honorification strategies. Common to all of the languages listed above is the second type of pronominal honorification, namely *referent* honorification. In Gbaya, this involves incorporating the system of logophoric plural pronouns (Roulon-Doko 1997: 88). In many Bantu languages, referent honorification involves manipulating the agreement pattern typically triggered by a noun. In Bantu gender systems, most human nouns belong to the so-called human gender and as such trigger Class 1 (singular) and Class 2 (plural) agreement patterns, realised as prefixes that are marked on a range of targets. In some Bantu languages, speakers paradigmatically encode politeness levels by

using the Class 2 agreement pattern when talking about an individual, as exemplified by Fwe in (2) and (3) (also e.g. Irvine 1998 54-55 for Bemba; see also Storch & Dimmendaal 2014: 17-21). This strategy is also part of expressions using the subjunctive mood to make imperatives more polite, as in (4) for Haya (see Devos & van Olmen 2013).

(2) Fwe (Bantu K40, Niger-Congo; Gunnink 2018: 117)

ba-zyib-ehere

CL2-know-NEUT.STAT

‘S/he is well-known.’ (person older than ego)

(3) Fwe (Bantu K40, Niger-Congo; Gunnink 2018: 117)

haiba ba-mu-kéntu u-angu ba-kewsi n-nyazi mbo-ndi-ba-kan-e

when CL2-CL1-wife CL1-POSS1 CL2-have CL9-lover NFUT-1SG-CL2-refuse-PFV.SBJV

‘If my wife has a lover, I will divorce her.’

(4) Haya (Bantu J20, Niger-Congo; Lehman 1977: 147, cited in Devos & van Olmen 2013)

ba-m-p-é o-mw-óono

CL2-1SG-give-SBJV AUG-CL3-salt

‘Give me salt!’ (polite)

A different kind of pronominal honorification is found in Akan: “personal pronouns systematically undergo lexical tone changes in the environment of the different subclasses of kinship noun” (Boadi 2000: 121). This can be seen in possessive constructions with pronominal modifiers, as in (5).

(5) Akan (Kwa, Niger-Congo; Boadi 2000: 121)

a.	<i>mé wɔ̄fa</i>	‘my uncle’	b.	<i>mè bá</i>	‘my child’
	<i>mé ni</i>	‘my mother’		<i>mèwɔ̄faasé</i>	‘my niece/nephew’
	<i>mé kùne</i>	‘my husband’		<i>nè yére</i>	‘his wife’

Internal and external language dynamics are important dimensions in the extant literature on pronominal honorification. Concerning African languages, it has been suggested – albeit tentatively – that addressee honorification in African languages might be due to contact with certain European languages like French which spread as a result of colonialism (Helmbrecht 2003: 197). Whilst I side with Gregersen (1974: 54; also Aikhenvald 2010: 219) that the “the notion of plurality is vivid enough [...] in conveying the notion of social distance to permit multiple convergence in many parts of the world”, the question of contact is worthy of further investigation. In the eastern Kalahari, contact has resulted in the replication of the ‘Bantu type’ system in some Kalahari Khoe languages (Khoe-Kwadi). This is illustrated in (6) where honorific concord is made using the 3rd-person common gender plural person-gender-number suffix *-re* in a the same way agreement class 2 is used in Bantu languages across southern Africa (Pratchett 2020: 46-49; see also Treis 2008 for the influence of Amharic on Kambaata).

(6) Tshwa (Kalahari Khoe, Khoe-Kwadi: Pratchett 2020: 47)

Ranamane-re tana //xau Radinoko-m djoro oa xa-re na-ba |hoo

PN-PL.HON then chase PN-M.SG.GEN back LOC DEM-PL.HON DEM-M.SG.ACC run

‘Ranamane, then chased after Radinoko_k and he_j ran after him_k [...].’

Almost half a century after Gregersen's (1974) call for a holistic description of honorification in African languages, this panel serves as an opportunity to assert the contribution of African languages to the typology of pronominal honorification. Contributions on the themes illustrated above or related to any of the following topics are welcome (with the option to produce a joint volume if there is enough interest):

- pronominal honorification in individual languages, incl. corpus-based studies
- diachrony of honorific pronouns in African languages
- variation in pronominal honorification strategies within languages/language areas
- pronominal honorification systems arising due to contact (with African/non-African languages)
- acquisition of pronominal honorification systems
- descriptions of how such systems they used by speakers/social dynamics
- other novel descriptions of strategies for encoding social deixis in African languages will also be considered

Contact: Lee Pratchett (lee.pratchett@hu-berlin.de)

Abbreviations

ACC	Accusative	NFUT	Near future
AUG	Augment	PFV	Perfective
CL	Agreement class	PL	Plural
DEM	Demonstrative	PN	Proper noun
GEN	Genitive	POSS	Possessive
HON	Honorific	SBJV	Subjunctive
LOC	Locative	SG	Singular
M	Masculine	STAT	Stative
NEUT	Neuter		

References

- Aikhenvald, Alexandra Y. 2010. *Imperatives and commands*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Baumbach, Erdmann J. M. 1987. *Analytical Tsonga grammar*. Pretoria: University of South Africa.
- Boadi, Lawrence A. 2000. Pronominal status, kinship and tone in Akan. In Voßen, Rainer, Angelika Mietzner and Antje Meißner (eds.) *Mehr als nur Wrote: Afrikanistische Beiträge zum 65. Geburtstag von Franz Rottland*. Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe.
- Brown, Penelope & Levinson, Stephen C. 1987. *Politeness: some universals in language usage*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Devos, Maud & Daniël Van Olmen. 2013. Describing and explaining variation of Bantu imperatives and prohibitives, *Studies in Language* 37(1): 1-57.
- Devos, Maud. 2008. *A grammar of Makwe*. Munich: Lincom Europa.
- Gregersen, Edgar A. 1974. The signalling of social distance in African languages. In Gage, William (ed.) *Language in its social setting*, 47-55. Washington: The Anthropological Society of Washington.
- Gunnink, Hilde. 2018. *A grammar of Few: a Bantu language of Zambia and Namibia*. PhD dissertation. Ghent: Ghent University.
- Helmbrecht, Johannes. 2013. Politeness Distinctions in Pronouns. In Dryer, Matthew S. & Haspelmath, Martin (eds.) *The World Atlas of Language Structures Online*. Leipzig: Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. (Available online at <http://wals.info/chapter/45>)

- Helmbrecht, Johannes. 2003. Politeness distinctions in second person pronouns. In Lenz, Friedrich (ed.), *Deictic Conceptualization of Space, Time and Person*, 185-202. Amsterdam; Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Helmbrecht, Johannes. 2002. *Personal pronouns – form, function and use*. Habilitation. Erfurt: University of Erfurt.
- Irvine, Judith T. 1998. Ideologies of honorific language. In Woolard, Kathryn A. & Paul V. Kroskrity (eds.), *Language ideologies. Practice and theory*, 51-6. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Jucker, Andreas H & Joanna Kopaczyk. 2017. Historical (im)politeness. In Culpeper, Jonathan, Michael Haugh, Michael, Jonathan Culpeper & Dániel Z. Kadar (eds.) *The Palgrave handbook of linguistic (im)politeness*, 433-459. London: Springer.
- Lehman, Christina. 1977. Imperatives. In Byarushengo, Ernest Rugwa, Alessandro Duranti & Larry M. Hyman (eds.), *Haya grammatical structure*. Los Angeles: SCOPIL.
- Leslau, Wolf. 1995. *Reference grammar of Amharic*. Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz.
- Maugham, Reginald Charles Fulke. 1898. *A handbook of the Chi-Makua language*. Johannesburg: Adlington & Co.
- Pratchett, Lee J. 2020. Language contact and change in eastern Botswana: new insights from the pronominal system of an undocumented Kalahari Khoe language, *Language in Africa* 1(1): 34-64.
- Roulon-Doko, Paulette. 1997. *Parlons gbaya*. Paris: L'Harmattan.
- Storch, Anne & Gerrit J. Dimmendaal. 2014. One size fits all?. In Storch, Anne & Gerrit J. Dimmendaal (eds.), *Number – Constructions and Semantics. Case studies from Africa, Amazonia, India and Oceania*, 1-32. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Treis, Yvonne. 2008. *A grammar of Kambaata (Ethiopia)*. Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe.